
Washington Administrative Code Notice of Permanent Rules for **Professional Wrestling**

This explanatory statement concerns the **Washington State Department of Licensing's adoption of Chapter 36-13 WAC Professional Wrestling.**

The Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325(6)) requires agencies to complete a concise explanatory statement before filing adopted rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. This statement must be provided to anyone who gave comment about the proposed rule making.

Once persons who gave comment during this rule making have had a chance to receive this document, the Department of Licensing will file the amended rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. These rule changes will become effective 31 days after filing (approximately **December 13, 2015**).

The Department of Licensing appreciates your involvement in this rule making process. If you have any questions, please contact Damon Monroe, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 902-3843 or e-mail at dmonroe@dol.wa.gov.

What are the agency's reasons for adopting this rule?

Industry stakeholders have requested amendments to the rules and are in support of the proposed rules. The proposed rules are more in line with current industry standards and practices.

- Unlike boxing and mixed martial arts where the announcer is required to announce the results of a bout as directed by the department, in wrestling there are no such requirements because the outcome of the bouts are predetermined. Removing this licensing requirement will not compromise the safety and welfare of the participants or have a significant impact on revenue collection.
- Unlike boxing and mixed martial arts, professional wrestling is a form of theatrical entertainment where the use of unconventional language is typically customary in the industry. Removing restrictions on the use of unconventional language will allow the promoter to conduct their business under their own discretion as in any other type of theatrical entertainment without compromising safety.
- The requirement for the department to monitor the cancellation of events was put in place to protect the consumer from fraud or misrepresentation of tickets sales and is duplicative of existing law. Fraud and misrepresentation are already established as unprofessional conduct under chapter 67.08 RCW, the Boxing, Martial Arts and Wrestling Act and chapter 18.235 RCW, the Uniform Regulation of Business and Professions Act.

Summary of all public comments received on this rule proposal and the agency's response to those comments:

The department received two oral comments in support of the proposed rules:

Josh Kuntz, from Legalize Wrestling, expressed support of the proposed rules.

Jake Stratton, from Legalize Wrestling, expressed support of the proposed rules as being necessary and logical.

The Department has considered all comments.

The final rule is the same as the proposed rule. Notice of the adopted rule will be distributed to all licensees, and stakeholder mailing and email lists following filing with the Office of the Code Reviser.

WAC Changes

Amends:

WAC 36-13-010 License fees, renewals and requirements

WAC 36-13-110 Miscellaneous provisions

Repeals:

WAC 36-13-050 Announcers